

REMARKS

In response to the final office action dated June 19, 2007, Applicants are amending the independent claims 1, 10, 11 and 14. Claims 1, 3-14 and 16-18 are pending. Favorable consideration of the amended claims is requested.

The independent claims are being amended to recite that the database objects are of a type that is configured to comprise a plurality of data portions, and that each of the predetermined contexts defines that at least one of the plurality of data portions is relevant for the predefined context. These amendments are supported by the present disclosure. First, the background section discusses a type of object that is used for holding employee data, and mentions that a field for Social Security number should be used for U.S. employees but not for non-U.S. employees. Specification 1:11:23. That is, while the employees in different countries have a common type of object, a field in the object (e.g., a Social Security number) may not be relevant for employees in certain countries. Second, the exemplary contexts 116 (e.g., a country) are described as affecting what data a particular object should contain. Specification 4:1-2. No new matter is added.

Claim rejections

Claims 1, 3-8, 10, 11-12, 14 and 16 were rejected under § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. 6,396,475 (Ellenby). Claims 9 and 19 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellenby. Claims 13 and 17 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellenby in view of U.S. 5,428,731 (Powers).

These rejections are moot in view of the above amendments. Nevertheless, and without conceding that the rejections have merit, Applicants will point to the following differences between Ellenby and the present subject matter.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of providing access to database objects. In short, the method comprises displaying an object selection area, receiving a user selection of a database object, identifying an associated context, selecting a panel selection controls using the identified context, and displaying the selected panel selection control in the user interface. Particularly,

claim 1 states that the plurality of database objects are of a type that is configured to include a plurality of data portions, and that each of the database objects has stored therewith one of a plurality of predetermined contexts defining that at least one of the plurality of data portions is relevant for the predefined context. Ellenby does not relate to multiple contexts being applicable to a particular type of object.

Ellenby relates to remote addressing of objects. (Title, Abstract.) One aspect relied on by the Examiner was the teaching by Ellenby that different objects (e.g., a school, a financial building or a restaurant) can be selected. (FIGs. 1-3.) Ellenby explains that “[s]chools have certain attributes associated therewith which suggest how one might wish to use a computer device to interact with them.” (Ellenby 7:66—8:1.) Depending on the type of the selected object, “a toolbar device associated with objects of the type being addressed may be selected and displayed”. (Ellenby 8:15-16.)

The Examiner took the position that Ellenby’s types of object (e.g., a school) disclosed the “context” recited in Applicants’ claims. Office action page 3. However, the claims now specifically state that multiple objects are of the same type, and that they can be associated with different contexts. (Compare with the situation mentioned above, that the Social Security number of an employee object is used when the context is U.S., but not otherwise.) As such, Ellenby does not disclose the “displaying,” “receiving,” “identifying,” “selecting” and “displaying” steps recited in claim 1. For similar reasons, Ellenby also does not anticipate the subject matter of independent claims 10, 11 or 14, or any of the present dependent claims.

Ellenby also does not render the present invention unpatentable. For example, this is because the present subject matter provides increased flexibility when working with the same type of object in multiple countries, because the present subject matter can provide a panel selection control for only the object portion(s) relevant to the present context. Specification 7:17-23. Ellenby does not obtain this advantage. Accordingly, Ellenby does not suggest the present subject matter.

Conclusion

Favorable consideration of claims 1, 3-14 and 16-18 as amended is requested.

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It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

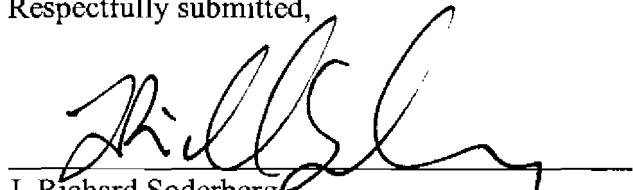
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